

Message Text

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ACTION SS-15

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-10 ISO-00 AGR-10 AID-05 EB-07

COME-00 TRSE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 NSC-05 OIC-02 PA-02

PRS-01 USIE-00 CIAE-00 FRB-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-15

XMB-04 OPIC-06 SP-02 CIEP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01

INRE-00 /123 W

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O 280928Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 1827

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO NIACT IMMEDIATE

US MISSION USUN NEW YORK NIACT IMMEDIATE 2501

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 ROME 9331

FOR UNDER SECRETARY ROBINSON

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UNWFC

SUBJECT: WORLD FOOD COUNCIL, FOURTH DAY - MINISTERIAL LEVEL

REF.: A) ROME 9215

B) ROME 9093

/SUMMARY:/ FULL DAY OF DEBATE ON AGENDA ITEM 6 INVOLVED 25 CLUNCIL MEMBERS AND 4 OBERVERS. UNDER SECRETARY ROBINSON SPOKE DURING MORNING SESSION AND PREPARED STATEMENT DISTRIBUTED TO PRESS ATTENDING COUNCIL. DEVELOPING COUNTRIES TENDED FEATURE FOOD AID AND FERTILIZERS ASSISTANCE RATHER THAN EMPHASIZING INCREASED AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION THIS IS IN CONTRAST TO EMPHASIS GIVEN BY MOST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES AS WELL AS U.S. AND USSR. THE FAO AD HOC REPORT ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY WAS GENERALLY SUPPORTED. CANADA (MEMBER) AND NETHERLANDS (OBSERVER) EXPRESSED DISAPPOINTMENT WITH DIFFUSE DISCUSSION AND LACK OF PROGRESS AND STRESED NEED FOR CLEARER DEFINITION AND NARROWER UNCLASSIFIED

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FOCUS FOR COUNCIL ACTIVITIES.

/END SUMMARY./

1. DEBATE CONTINUED FOR A FULL DAY WITH 25 MEMBER GOVERNMENTS, TWO OBSERVER COUNTRIES AND THE UNDP AND EEC SPEAKING TO THE CURRENT WORLD FOOD SITUATION AND THE CRITICAL ISSUES OF CONCERN TO THE COUNCIL.

2. MOST COUNTRIES CONTINUED TO ADDRESS THEIR COMMENTS TO AGENDA ITEM 6, NAMELY (I) FOOD AVAILABILITY FOR MSA COUNTRIES, (II) MEETING THE 10 MILLION TON FOOD AID TARGET, (III) STEPS TO IMPLEMENT THE INTERNATIONAL UNDERTAKING ON FOOD SECURITY, (IV) MINIMUM IMPORT REQUIREMENTS OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES FOR SHORT-TER FERTILIZER AND PESTICIDE REQUIREMENTS, AND (V) THE INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT.

3. PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL ADJOURNED SESSION AT 11:30 A.M. FOR MEETING OF HEADS OF DELEGATIONS IN AN ATTEMPT TO MOVE DEBATE FORWARD SO MEETING COULD FOCUS ON FUTURE PROGRAM OF WORK OF CLUNCIL. HOWEVER, DEBATE RESUMED IN LONG AFTERNOON SESSION SO AGENDA ITEMS RELATING TO PROGRAM OF WORK OF THE COUNCIL AND ADOPTION OF RULES OF PROCEDURE DEFERRED TO MORNING SESSION ON FINAL DAY.

4. UNDER SECRETARY ROBINSON DELIVERED U.S. OPENING STATEMENT AT CLOSE OF MORNING SESSION. STATEMENT REDRAFTED PRIOR TO DELIVERY TO:

--EMPHASIZE NEED FOR FOCUS ON STEPS TO MEET FOOD PROBLEM RATHER THAN RHETORIC ABOUT NATURE OF ECONOMKC RELATIONS AMONG STATES,
--DEFINE ACCELRATING GROWTH OF FOOD PRODUCTION IN LDC'S AS CORE OF SOLUTION,

-- DEMONSTRATE HOW U.S. IS TAKING LEADERSHIP IN CRITICAL AREAS OF PRODUCTION ASSISTANCE, INTERIM FOOD AID AND FOOD SECURITY SCHEME.

--FOCUS COUNCIL'S ATTENTION ON ITS ROLE AS BODY BEST ABLE TO IDENTIFY AND RECOMMEND MEANS FOR OVERCOMING GAPS AND LAPSES IN WORLD-WIDE EFFORTS TO MEET FOOD NEEDS.

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USIS ISSUED PRESS SUMMARY OF STATEMENT WITH COPY TO WASHINGTTON VIA RUEHFO CHANNEL.

5. MOST DEVELOPING COUNTRIES STRESSED THE NEED FOR FOOD AID AND EXPRESSED HOPE THAT THE 10 MILLION TON MINIMUM ANNUAL TARGET OF GRAINS WOULD BE MET. SEVERAL COUNTRIES STRESSED THE NEED FOR A THREE-YEAR FORWARD PLANNING PROGRAM FOR FOOD AID.

THERE WAS A TENDENCY FOR THESE SAME DEVELOPING COUNTRIES TO LOOK AT THIS COUNCIL SESSION AS A FORUM TO STATE THEIR FOOD AID NEEDS WITH HOPES THAT DONORS MIGHT INCREASE THEIR PLEDGES. TO SOME EXTENT THIS VIEW WAS JUSTIFIED AS STATEMENTS BY SEVERAL DEVELOPED COUNTRIES REPORTED THEIR CURRENT FOOD AID CONTRIBUTIONS TO MSA COUNTRIES.

6. DEVELOPING COUNTRIES GENERALLY DEPLORED THE HIGH COST OF FERTILIZERS, SUPPORTED THE INTERNATIONAL FERTILIZER SCHEME OF FAO AND URGED ITS CONTINUATION AND EXPANSION. WHILE CLAMORING FOR EXPANSION OF FERTILIZER PRODUCTION, DEVELOPING COUNTRIES FAILED TO REFLECT INFORMATION AVAILABLE IN THE REPORT OF THE FAO COMMISSION ON FETILIZERS THAT PRICES OF FERTILIZERS HAVE DROPPED RECENTLY AND ADDITIONAL PRODUCTION CAPACITY WOULD SOON BE IN OPERATION.

7. MOST DEVELOPING COUNTRIES HELD OUT HIGH HOPES FOR THE EARLY CREATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT, SOME EXPRESSING APPRECIATION TO SAUDI ARABIA AND THE UNITED STATES FOR THE INDICATIONS OF SUPPORT FOR THE FUND.

8. AFTER A BRIEF POLITICAL INTRODUCTION, WHICH INTER ALIA REFERRED TO NEED FOR PEACEFUL CO-EXISTENCE, THE STATEMENT OF THE USSR DELEGATION EMPHASIZED THAT INCREASING FOOD PRODUCTION WAS FIRST AND OF FOREMOST IMPORTANCE CITING (A) SUBSTANTIVE INCREASES IN INVESTMENT IN USSR AGRICULTURE, INCLUDING PLANNED EXPANSION OF GRAIN STORAGE, (B) EXPANSION OF THE LIVESTOCK SECTOR THROUGH MORE RATIONAL FEEDING PRACTICES AND (C) INCREASING PRODUCTIVITY THROUGH BETTER CROP YIELDS BY USE OF IMPROVED VARIETIES, MORE FERTILIZER, EXPANDED IRRIGATION AND MECHANIZATION. STABILIZATION OF WORLD PRICES WAS CONSIDERED IMPORTANT BY THE USSR TO PROTECT BOTH DEVELOPING AND DEVELOPED COUNTRIES AND EFFORTS SHOULD BE CHANNELED THROUGH COMMODITY UNCLASSIFIED

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GROUPS. THE USSR DELEGATE COMMENTED THAT WHILE COMMODITY AGREEMENTS WERE MANY-SIDED AND COMPLEX, HE STATED HIS COUNTRY WOULD COOPERATE.

9. THE CANADIAN DELEGATE EXPRESSED DISAPPOINTMENT ABOUT THE DIRECTION THAT THE WORLD FOOD COUNCIL WAS GOING. HE INDICATED THAT WFC SHOULD (A) MONITOR THE WORLD FOOD SITUATION IN ALL ASPECTS, (B) LOOK AT THE TOTAL PICTURE TO COORDINATE FOOD.....

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PRS-01 USIE-00 CIAE-00 FRB-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-15

XMB-04 OPIC-06 SP-02 CIEP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01

INRE-00 /123 W

----- 107055

O 280928Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 1828

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO NIACT IMMEDIATE

US MISSION USUN NEW YORK NIACT IMMEDIATE 2502

UNCLAS SECTION 2 OF 2 ROME 9331

FOR UNDER SECRETARY ROBINSON

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.....FOOD ACTIVITIES, (C) JUDGE WHERE THEE ARE GAPS IN THE STRATEGY. THE COUNCIL COULD DO THIS WITH A SMALL STAFF OF COMPETENT PEOPLE, BE ASSISTED BY FAO AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL BODIES AND OBJECTIVELY REVIEW WHAT OTHERS ARE DOING TO SOLVE THE FOOD PROBLEM. HE CONCLUDED BY STRESSING THE NECESSITY OF THE COUNCIL GETTING FUNCTIONS AND PRIORITIES STRAIGHT.

10. IN A LATE INTERVENTION AS AN OBSERVER, THE NETHERRLANDS INDICATED THAT THE COUNCIL NEEDED TO CONSIDER ITS METHODS OF WORK BY LIMITING THE AGENDA, HAVING PROPER PREPARATION OF DOCUMENTATION, RELATE TO THE WORK OF OTHERS AND THEIR UNCLASSIFIED

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REPORTS.

11. THE AD HOC REPORT ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY AND THE FAO UNDER-TAKING WAS SUPPORTED BY JAPAN, UNITED KINGDOM, PAKISTAN, EGYPT, CANADA, AND INDIA. KENYA AND INDONESIA STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF FOOD STORAGE AND INDICATED NEED OF ASSISTANCE. INDIA INDICATED WILLINGNESS TO SHARE EXPERIENCE IN BUILDING FOOD RESERVES. AUSTRALIA GAVE SPECIAL ATTENTION TO STOCK HOLDING POLICIES AND THEIR EFFECT ON PRICES.

12. LARDINOIS OF EEC INDICATED THAT THE COMMISSION WISHES TO CONTINUE TO PLAY PART AS OBSERVER IN FUTURE MEETINGS AND INDICATED WASYS EEC COULD BE HELPFUL TO COUNCIL. HE SPOKE ON FOOD AID BUT AVOIDED ANY COMMITMENTS TO INCREASE FOOD AID AT THIS TIME. ON THE PREVIOUS DAY THE UK ANNOUNCED THAT THEY WOULD CONTRIBUTE AND SUPPORT INCREASED FOOD AID AND SHARPLY CRITICIZED FELLOW MEMBERS IN EEC FOR HAVING REFUSED TO INCREASE FOOD AID. VOLPE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETING AGENDA, LESS DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, MINISTERIAL MEETINGS, FOOD ASSISTANCE, FERTILIZERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 JUN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ROME09331
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750225-1099
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975066/aaaaaaexy.tel
Line Count: 240
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 FEB 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 FEB 2003 by PhilliR0>; APPROVED <17 FEB 2004 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: WORLD FOOD COUNCIL, FOURTH DAY - MINISTERIAL LEVEL
TAGS: OCON, EAID, UNWFC
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006